

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A plastic pallet comprising:

a polyphenylene ether resin;

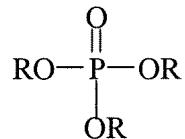
a polystyrene resin consisting of a random polystyrene copolymer, a rubber-modified polystyrene, or a combination thereof; and

at least one flame retardant in an amount sufficient to impart a degree of flame retardancy to the pallet to pass UL 2335 protocol for pallets, wherein the at least one flame retardant is present in about 10 to about 30 parts based on 100 parts by weight of the polyphenylene ether resin, polystyrene resin and flame retardant together;

wherein the pallet is suitable for commodity storage and meets or exceeds Underwriters Laboratory UL 2335 protocol for pallets.

18. (Previously presented) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the flame retardant is an organophosphate.

19. (Previously presented) The plastic pallet of claim 18, wherein the organophosphate is an aromatic phosphate compound of the formula



where R is the same or different and is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkyl substituted aryl, halogen substituted aryl, aryl substituted alkyl, halogen, or a combination of any of the foregoing, provided at least one R is aryl.

20. (Previously presented) The plastic pallet of claim 17, further comprising an impact modifier.

21. (Previously presented) The plastic pallet of claim 17, further comprising at least one additive, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of mineral filler, clay, reinforcing agent, glass fiber, glass flakes, glass spheres, plasticizer, stabilizer, colorant, processing aids, and a combination of the foregoing additives.

22. (Previously presented) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the pallet comprises:

about 30 to about 70 parts of the polyphenylene ether resin,

about 20 to about 60 parts of the polystyrene resin, and

about 10 to about 30 parts of the flame retardant, wherein all weights are based on 100 parts by weight of the polyphenylene ether resin, polystyrene resin and flame retardant together.

23. (Currently amended) A plastic pallet consisting of:

a polyphenylene ether resin;

a high impact polystyrene;

at least one flame retardant in an amount sufficient to impart a degree of flame retardancy to the pallet to pass UL 2335 protocol for pallets, wherein the at least one flame retardant is present in about 10 to about 30 parts based on 100 parts by weight of the polyphenylene ether resin, polystyrene resin and flame retardant together; and

at least one impact modifier,

wherein the pallet is suitable for commodity storage and meets or exceeds Underwriters Laboratory UL 2335 protocol for pallets.

24. (Currently amended) A method for making a plastic pallet comprising:

injection molding a composition comprising polyphenylene ether resin; a polystyrene resin consisting of a random polystyrene copolymer, a rubber-modified polystyrene, or a combination thereof; and at least one flame retardant in an amount necessary to impart a degree of flame retardancy to the pallet to pass the UL 2335 protocol for pallets, wherein the at least one flame retardant is present in about 10 to about 30 parts based on 100 parts by weight of the polyphenylene ether resin, polystyrene resin and flame retardant together; wherein the pallet is suitable for commodity storage and meets or exceeds Underwriters Laboratory UL 2335 protocol for pallets.

25. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet comprises both a top deck and a bottom deck.

26. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 25, wherein the top deck, the bottom deck or both the top and bottom decks contain holes.

27. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet is 48" x 40".

28. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet has a load capacity of 2,800 pounds.

29. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet is capable of bearing 2,800 pound loads in stacks of 5 loads high racking.

30. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet can accommodate pallet jacks.

31. (New) The plastic pallet of claim 17, wherein the plastic pallet meets the Grocery Manufacturing Association specifications.